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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,513	02/23/2004	Ronald L. Voights	STL11295	8315
7590	12/12/2006		EXAMINER	
Seagate Technology LLC 1280 Disc Drive Shakopee, MN 55379			HEINZ, ALLEN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/785,513	VOIGHTS ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	A. J. HEINZ	2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2006.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5,9-14 and 17-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,6-8,15,16 and 20-23 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/23/04</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The Title should provide a more detailed structural identification of the feature or features which distinguish the invention from the prior art.

The intended results produced by the structural differences can also be part of the content of the Title but should be made subordinate to the structural differences.

2. Applicant's election of the species of figures 6,7,8&11 and the commensurate claims 1-3,6-8,15-17&20-23 readable thereon in Paper dated 11/27/06 is acknowledged.

Claims 4,5,9-14,18&19 are therefore withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, pursuant 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to the non-elected species.

Of the elected species claims, the following claims have been found to be contraindicative to the features found in the elected species and therefore are also considered to be in the non-elected claim grouping: claim 17; to wit, the elected figures 6,7,8&11 are not disclosed as having nor do they show

the requisite "perpendicular" air flow through the filter. Note; only figures 14-16 are indicated as having this attribute.

Therefore, Claims 17 is additionally withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, pursuant 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to the non-elected species.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ekhoff (PN6097568) .

See Figure 4. Note, to the extent claimed, filters 65 are independently mounted to a base deck 24 and are covered with a filtering material such as pressed polypropylene. See col. 5, lines 44-50.

Re claims 7&22; see col. 6, lines 34-35.

Re claim 16; see col. 5, lines 51-62.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekhoff as applied to claims 1-3,6,7,15,16,20-23 above, and further in view that official notice is taken of the many types of filtering materials which are commercially available and adaptable to filter requirements in disk drives.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the filter of Ekhoff with scrim material in view of it's well accepted use as a filtering material.

Rationale: scrim filter material is simply an alternative means of achieving the same results for the same purposes as the filter materials disclosed by Ekhoff and therefore is a readily substitutable equivalent.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tuma shows a filter configuration in figures 9&10.

8. For a complete response applicant should identify how the claimed structure of his invention defines over **all** the art of record.

Moreover, where the applicant disagrees with the reasoning and/or application of the prior art on critical points of the claims, they should identify how the claimed structure of their invention defines over **all** the art of record not just the applied art.

Where applicant believes that the art is redundant and/or superfluous relative to the critical aspects of the claimed invention the applicant may simply state so in rebuttal summary.

9. If applicant has filed an information disclosure statement and this instant office action does not contain an initialed-off copy (or copies) of all such filed IDS's (or at least a comment to the disposition of such IDS'S in the body of the office action itself) applicant should apprise the examiner of such missing documentation [to the IDS's] in response to this office action so that the examiner can take appropriate action to supply same to the applicant.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. J. HEINZ whose telephone number is (571) 272-7587. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DWAYNE BOST can be reached on (571)272-7023.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A. J. HEINZ  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2627

